

# Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

# State of New York

## Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **New York**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 19,157,532 (July 2002 estimate); 18,976,457 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 62.0% white; 14.8% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 5.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.4% other race; 1.9% two or more races; 15.1% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

### **Politics**

- Governor: George E Pataki<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Mary O. Donohue<sup>3</sup>
- Attorney General: Eliot Spitzer<sup>4</sup>
- U.S. Senate: Charles E. Schumer (D), Hillary Clinton (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-29, respectively): Timothy Bishop; Steve Israel; Peter King; Carolyn McCarthy; Gary Ackerman; Gregory Meeks; Joseph Crowley; Jerrod Nadler; Anthony Weiner; Edolphus Towns; Major Owens; Nydia Velazquez; Vito Fossella; Carolyn Maloney; Charles Rangel; Jose Serrano; Eliot Engel; Nita Lowey; Sue Kelly; John Sweeney; Michael McNulty; Maurice Hinchey; John McHugh; Sherwood Boehlert; James Walsh; Thomas Reynolds; Jack Quinn; Louise McIntosh Slaughter; Amo Houghton
- Capital: Albany<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated as one of the five original HIDTAs in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA is responsible for the following areas in New York: Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties as well as New York City. In New Jersey, the area of responsibility covers the following counties: Union, Hudson, Bergen, Essex, and Passaic. This region is the Northeast U.S. center for narcotics trafficking, serving as both a gateway and a marketplace.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in New York:<sup>7</sup>
  - FY 2002:
    - \$100,000 to Erie County SICA Coalition, Cheektowaga
    - \$100,000 to Leatherstocking's Promise, Cooperstown
    - \$98,750 to Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Partners of Fulton County, Gloversville
    - \$100,000 to Project FOCUS (Families Organized to Curb the Use of Substances) Coordinating Council, Tarrytown
    - \$100,000 to West Islip Health and Wellness Alliance COMPASS Coalition, West Islip

- \$100,000 to Coalition for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention, Staten Island
- \$100,000 to Choices for Change, Poughkeepsie
- \$100,000 to Cayuga County Safe Schools/Healthy Students Partnership, Auburn
- FY 2001:
  - \$100,000 to Catholic Charities of Montgomery County, Amsterdam
  - \$100,000 to Family of Woodstock, Inc., Kingston
  - \$99,959 to Fund for the City of New York, New York
  - \$100,000 to Inwood Community Services, Inc., New York
  - \$55,299 to Pittsford Central School District, Pittsford
  - \$100,000 to Southampton Union Free School District, Southampton
  - \$78,449 to Yorkshire Pioneer Central School, Yorkshire
- FY 2000:
  - \$94,491 to Community Alliance for Prevention, Goshen
  - \$100,000 to Suffolk Coalition to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, Inc., Hauppauge
  - \$100,000 to Schenectady County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership, Schenectady
  - \$100,000 to Syracuse Onondaga Drug and Alcohol Commission, Syracuse
- FY 1999:
  - \$100,000 to Community Drug Task Force, Ithaca
  - \$100,000 to Community Action Partnership, Cheektowaga
  - \$100,000 to Westchester County, White Plains
- FY 1998:
  - \$100,000 to County of Rockland Alliance for Prevention, New City
  - \$99,979 to Prevention Partners, Inc., Rochester
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>8</sup>

Nineteen sites in New York have received Federal funding and official recognition as Weed and Seed sites. The sites are: Albany, Bronx, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Castle Hill, Far Rockaway, Huntington Station, Jamestown, New Cassel, North Amityville, North Bellport, Poughkeepsie, Rochester (2 sites), Roosevelt, Syracuse (2 sites), Troy, and the Village of Hempstead.
- FY 2001/2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for New York:<sup>9</sup>
  - Formula Funding: \$145,471,865
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$111,896,957
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$29,065,640
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$3,020,000
    - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$1,489,268
  - Discretionary Funding: \$38,700,145
    - Mental Health - \$16,857,724
    - Substance Prevention - \$4,938,451
    - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$16,903,970
  - Total Mental Health Funds: \$50,432,632

- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$133,739,378
- Total Funds for New York: \$184,172,010
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to New York: \$29,080,474<sup>10</sup>
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant amounts awarded to the New York State Unified Court System:<sup>11</sup>
  - \$387,551 to Wayne County for drug court implementation
  - \$281,853 to Dutchess County/Poughkeepsie for implementation
  - \$170,145 to Oneida County/Utica for implementation
  - \$338,541 to Washington County for implementation
  - \$267,552 to Queens County for drug court enhancement
  - \$436,696 to Schenectady County for implementation
  - \$390,408 to Richmond County for implementation
  - \$393,674 to Westchester County/Yonkers for implementation
  - \$166,424 to Niagara County/Lockport for enhancement
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to New York:<sup>12</sup>
  - FY 1996: \$1,416,014
  - FY 1997: \$1,510,245
  - FY 1998: \$3,139,838
  - FY 1999: \$2,979,236
  - FY 2000: \$2,996,411
  - FY 2001: \$2,838,814
  - FY 2002: \$3,017,503
- There were no New York recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.<sup>13</sup>
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipients in New York:<sup>14</sup>
  - \$116,530 to Skyline Gardens, Albany
  - \$125,000 to Goodwill Terrace Apartments, Astoria
  - \$125,000 to Lambert House North, Bronx
  - \$120,000 to Starrett at Spring Creek, Brooklyn
  - \$60,000 to Waterfront Limited Partnership, Buffalo
  - \$109,000 to Jackson Terrace Apartments, Hempstead
  - \$125,000 to State Hulett Albany Associates, Schenectady
  - \$116,250 to Concord Court, Staten Island

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 2,389 arrests for drug violations in New York.<sup>15</sup>

#### Number of DEA Drug Arrests, New York, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	2,142
1998	2,392
1999	2,578
2000	2,684
2001	2,389

- Data for 2001 show that there were 40,249 adult arrests throughout New York for felony drug violations. This number represents a 15.4% decrease over the felony drug arrests during 2000.<sup>16</sup>

#### Number of Adult Arrests, New York, 2000-2001

	2000	2001	% Change 2000-2001
Total arrests	575,136	533,213	-7.3%
Total felony	178,477	169,944	-4.8
Violent	52,631	50,988	-3.1
Drug	47,580	40,249	-15.4
Other	78,266	78,707	0.6
Total misdemeanor	396,659	363,269	-8.4
Violent	117,736	94,601	-19.6
Drug	39,996	38,438	-3.9
Other	238,927	230,230	-3.6

- During 2001, 76.1% of New York City adult male arrestees and 77.4% of adult female arrestees tested positive drugs at arrest.<sup>17</sup>

#### Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive, New York City, 2001

Drug type	Male	Female
Cocaine	44.6%	56.9%
Opiates	18.7	13.9
Methamphetamine	0.1	0.7
Marijuana	40.5	32.1
PCP	1.5	1.5
Any drug	76.1	77.4
Multiple drugs	25	23.4

#### Juveniles

- Approximately 41% of New York high school students surveyed in 1999 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.<sup>18</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, New York, 1999

	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	38.7%	43.8%	41.3%
Current marijuana use	21.0	25.8	23.4
Lifetime cocaine use	6.0	7.5	6.8
Current cocaine use	2.4	3.6	3.0
Lifetime inhalant use	11.0	12.6	11.8
Current inhalant use	3.1	4.3	3.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.8	3.5	2.6
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.9	6.9	6.4
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.0	5.4	3.7
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	1.2	2.7	2.0

- 10.6% of high school males surveyed in New York in 1999 reported trying marijuana before age 13.<sup>19</sup>

### Drugs

#### ➤ Cocaine

Cocaine is readily available and frequently abused in New York. Powder and crack cocaine prices are typically higher in Upstate New York than in New York City, while purity levels are generally higher in New York City than Upstate. Purity levels for powder cocaine average 75% throughout New York and crack cocaine purity levels average 58%.<sup>20</sup>

#### ➤ Heroin

South American heroin is the most prevalent form found in New York. However, Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin are also available and Mexican heroin is sporadically available. Retail heroin prices are typically higher in Upstate New York than New York City. Heroin purity levels in New York are among the highest in the nation. South American heroin ranges in purity from 85-96% in New York and 20-96% in Upstate New York. Purity levels for Asian heroin have reached 90% in New York City and 85% in Upstate New York.<sup>21</sup>

#### ➤ Marijuana

Marijuana is the most widely available and frequently abused drug in New York. Commercial-grade marijuana prices ranged from \$200-\$2,000 per pound and \$100-\$200 per ounce in New York during the first quarter of FY 2002. Hydroponic-produced marijuana sold for \$1,000-\$5,000 per pound and \$250-\$1,200 per ounce. "Purple haze," a new form of marijuana reported to be more potent than hydroponic, sold for \$300 per ounce in Upstate New York.<sup>22</sup>

#### ➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine poses a low but increasing threat to New York. Meth abuse is typically confined to limited segments of the population such as outlaw motorcycle gangs, some members of the gay community, and some residents of economically depressed rural neighborhoods. Recent reports indicate, however, that college students and rave attendees are abusing meth at an increasing rate.<sup>23</sup>

- **Club Drugs**  
MDMA is widely available and abused at nightclubs, raves, techno parties, and on college campuses throughout New York. In the first quarter of FY 2002, MDMA sold for \$5-\$13 per dosage unit at the wholesale level and \$25-\$38 at the retail level. GHB is also available at New York clubs. In FY 2001, a dosage unit of GHB sold for \$10. LSD is readily available at concerts, raves, and techno parties in New York. Ketamine presents a low threat to the State but is increasingly available at raves. In 2001, ketamine sold for \$20-\$50 per dosage unit.<sup>24</sup>
- **Other Drugs**  
Diverted pharmaceuticals are readily available in New York.<sup>25</sup>
- According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, nearly 47% of New York citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>26</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, New York, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.77%	17.07%	3.63%	5.79%
Past month use of marijuana	6.83	15.79	2.42	4.50
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	3.58	5.17	1.87	2.44
Past year cocaine use	1.38	4.10	1.10	1.49
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	35.78	27.06	51.19	46.69

- According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.32% of New York citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>27</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, New York, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.05%	4.23%	0.76%	1.32%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	3.87	6.89	1.08	2.07
Alcohol dependence	1.64	4.05	1.76	2.03
Alcohol dependence or abuse	4.33	12.60	3.57	4.76
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.40	15.85	4.45	6.06

## Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 86,297 full-time law enforcement employees in New York, 63,246 officers and 23,051 civilians.<sup>28</sup>

## Trafficking and Seizures

- Heroin, cocaine, marijuana and MDMA are regularly smuggled into New York from Canada.<sup>29</sup>
- New York has nine land ports of entry along its 400-mile border with Canada.<sup>30</sup>
- Drug trafficking organizations often smuggle illicit drugs into New York using maritime vessels. New York has two international seaports – Port of New York/New Jersey and Port of Buffalo/Niagara.<sup>31</sup>

- According to the U.S. Customs Service, between \$4 and \$8 billion generated from illicit drug sales is laundered in the New York metropolitan area each year.<sup>32</sup>
- Federal agencies seized more than 3,700 kilograms of cocaine in New York during 2002.<sup>33</sup>

#### Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, New York, 2002

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	3,765.9
Heroin	181.9
Methamphetamine	6.1
Marijuana	382.8

- During 2001, Federal agencies seized more than 3,800 kilograms of cocaine in New York.<sup>34</sup>

#### Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies (in Kilograms), New York, 1998-2001

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001
Cocaine	6,320.3	5,030.2	4,328.6	3,848.6
Heroin	460.7	346.9	401.8	801.4
Methamphetamine	0.8	7.0	23.5	12.3
Marijuana	2,851.9	6,837.0	4,274.7	2,713.0

- During 2002, the DEA and State and local law enforcement in New York seized 26 clandestine laboratories. From 1996-2001, only 11 methamphetamine labs were seized.<sup>35</sup>
- During 2001, there were a total of 7,664 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in New York under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>36</sup>

#### Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, New York, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>			Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Ditchweed Eradicated	
232	6,381	37	1,283	470	7,664

- According to the U.S. Customs Service, seizures of MDMA in the New York metropolitan area have increased from 225,000 pills in 1997 to 2,276,191 pills in 2001.<sup>37</sup>

#### Courts

- Drug Courts<sup>38</sup>  
As of January 2003, there were 150 drug courts in existence or being planned in New York. Twenty-five of the drug courts have been in existence for more than 2 years, 45 were recently implemented, and 80 were being planned.



- During FY 2001, approximately 43% (43.4%) of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New York had committed drug offenses. Thirty-three percent of the drug offenses (534 offenses) involved powder cocaine.<sup>39</sup>

#### Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, New York, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	# of Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	534	33.1%
Heroin	424	26.3
Crack cocaine	382	23.7
Marijuana	175	10.9
Methamphetamine	5	0.3
Other	92	5.7

- Data for 2001 indicate that there were 17,364 drug-related felony indictments throughout New York during the year.<sup>40</sup>

#### Felony Prosecutions, New York, 2000-2001

	2000	2001	% change
% prosecuted in upper courts	30.0	30.9	
Total indictments	52,500	50,173	-4.4%
Violent	13,899	13,868	-0.2
Drug	19,299	17,364	-10.0
Other	19,302	18,941	-1.9

#### Corrections

- On March 31, 2003, there were 96,843 inmates in correctional facilities throughout New York (including New York City).<sup>41</sup>
- At the end of 2001 (December 31), there were 196,835 adults on probation in New York. This is a 5.3% increase over the 186,955 adults on probation on January 1, 2001.<sup>42</sup>
- There were also 56,719 adults on parole in New York at the end of 2001. At the beginning of the year, there were 57,858 adults on parole.<sup>43</sup>

#### Consequences of Use

- During 2001, medical examiners in the Buffalo area of New York (includes Erie and Niagara counties) reported 128 drug-related deaths. Medical examiners in the Long Island area of New York (includes Nassau and Suffolk counties) reported 213 drug deaths in 2001.<sup>44</sup>
- Cocaine was mentioned in 43 of the Buffalo drug deaths and 101 of the Long Island drug deaths.<sup>45</sup>

Number of Drug Mentions and Drug Deaths, Buffalo and Long Island, 2000-2001

Drug Type	<u>Buffalo</u>		<u>Long Island</u>	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	43	38	48	59
Cocaine	29	43	69	101
Heroin/morphine	30	42	96	96
Marijuana	19	24	23	21
Amphetamines	--	--	--	2
Methamphetamine	--	--	38	49
Club drugs	2	1	3	4
Hallucinogens	--	--	10	5
Inhalants	--	--	3	--
Narcotic analgesics	42	63	73	98
Other analgesics	2	10	36	29
Benzodiazepines	23	41	31	50
Antidepressants	30	60	96	65
All other substances	32	56	108	83
Total drug deaths	89	128	209	213
Total drug mentions	252	378	634	662

**Treatment**

- In 2001, there were 301,175 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New York.<sup>46</sup>  
There were 301,186 treatment admissions in 2000.<sup>47</sup> During 1999, there were 286,542 admissions to treatment.<sup>48</sup>

Number of Admissions to Treatment, New York, 1999-2001

Drug Type	<u>1999</u>		<u>2000</u>		<u>2001</u>	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	62,924	22.3%	64,942	21.6%	61,575	20.4%
Alc. w/ second. drug	95,178	33.2	98,390	32.7	97,289	32.3
Cocaine – smoked	30,404	10.6	29,702	9.9	28,830	9.6
Cocaine – other route	11,370	4.0	11,603	3.9	11,786	3.9
Marijuana	27,899	9.7	32,266	10.7	34,268	11.4
Heroin	47,508	16.6	53,656	17.8	56,745	18.8
Other opiates	2,496	0.9	2,943	1.0	3,594	1.2
PCP	268	0.1	341	0.1	369	0.1
Hallucinogens	388	0.1	403	0.1	419	0.1
Amphetamines	394	0.1	361	0.1	459	0.2
Other stimulants	91	0.0	108	0.0	119	0.0
Tranquilizers	1,378	0.5	1,569	0.5	1,700	0.6
Sedatives	572	0.2	659	0.2	675	0.2
Inhalants	72	0.0	98	0.0	56	0.0
Other/none specified	4,600	1.6	4,145	1.4	3,291	1.1
Total	286,542	100.0	301,186	100.0	301,175	100.0

- Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP)<sup>49</sup>
- Initiated in 1990 by Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, DTAP is the first prosecution-run program in the country to divert prison-bound felony offenders to residential drug treatment. This program is based on the premise that defendants would return to society in a better position to resist drugs and crime after treatment than if they had spent a comparable time in prison. DTAP targets drug-addicted defendants arrested for non-violent felony offenses who have previously been convicted of one or more nonviolent felonies.

## Sources

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- <sup>3</sup> New York Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.state.ny.us/governor/lrgov/index.html>
- <sup>4</sup> New York Attorney General Web site: <http://www.oag.state.ny.us/>
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- <sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_ny-nj.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ny-nj.html)
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- <sup>15</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Connecticut State Factsheet: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/connecticut.html>
- <sup>16</sup> New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site, Crime Statistics section: <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/areastat/areast.htm>
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- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *New York Drug Threat Assessment*, November 2002: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs2/2580/2580p.pdf>
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Volume II. Supplementary Technical Appendices*,

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- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
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- <sup>47</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, New York, 2000: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/NY00.htm>
- <sup>48</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, New York, 1999: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/NY99.htm>
- <sup>49</sup> Brooklyn District Attorney Web site, Drug Treatment Alternative-to-Prison (DTAP) Program: <http://www.brooklynda.org/DTAP/DTAP.htm>

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